

Olde Southside Community Partnership Active in Urban Franklin County

Olde Southside Community Partnership is a community-based organization that targets at-risk youth and strengthens families in an urban part of Franklin County. Lisa Palmer, Executive Director, says that Olde Southside Community Partnership is about “community services and community empowerment.”

Olde Southside Community Partnership has had its 501 c 3 recognition for 11 years. When first established, it was mainly a civic organization, according to Palmer. It focused on dealing with criminal activities in the community. Since Lisa Palmer joined Olde Southside Community Partnership three years ago, however, it has started to provide actual social services. Also since Palmer’s arrival, it has begun to start applying for and receiving grants and other funds; such as a sub grant for the Ohio Compassion Capital Project for 2004-2005.

Olde Southside Community Partnership provides many services to its community throughout the year. For example, family Easter baskets were distributed to 20 families this year, a Mother’s Day Picnic took place, a Christmas toy drive happens for the children and a back-to-school fair is held for the community. This year 350 children were given school supplies with the help of community sponsors, including Georgia-Pacific Resins, Crane Plastic, LLC, Columbus Coatings, Marion Franklin Civic Association, Honda of America Manufacturing, and the Southside Initiatives. Other services provided through Old Southside Community Partnership include a Prevent Blindness Program and an after-school program. The Prevent Blindness program gives free eye exams and free eyeglass frames to those who are in need. The after-school program provides tutoring as well as help with homework.

Olde Southside Community Partnership runs with the help of two staff members and 45 volunteers from the community. Collaborations of this organization include the community Civic Association, Southside Initiatives, and the Hosack Street Baptist Church.

Plans for the Olde Southside Community Partnership include A Freedom School sponsored by the Children’s Defense Fund and student tutoring through the “No Child Left Behind” funding. It also hopes to continue collaborating with the mayor’s office for its after-school program so that it runs year round, not just through the summer.

Funding from the Ohio Compassion Capital Sub Grant will be used for training on board development, and staff/volunteer development. Additionally, the funding will be used to increase funding streams and collaborations.

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